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Dense embeddings in pathwise connected spaces

Alessandro Fedeli^{a,*}, Attilio Le Donne^b

^a *Department of Mathematics, University of L'Aquila, 67100 L'Aquila, Italy*

^b *Department of Mathematics, University of Rome "La Sapienza", 00100 Rome, Italy*

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Abstract

This paper is devoted to the problem of finding those T_1 -spaces (Hausdorff spaces) which are densely embeddable in a pathwise connected T_1 -space (Hausdorff space). In particular, we prove that a countable first countable Hausdorff space (with more than one point) is pathwise connectifiable (i.e., it can be densely embedded in a pathwise connected Hausdorff space) if and only if it has no isolated points. Moreover some examples are given to show that a Hausdorff space which can be densely embedded in a connected Hausdorff space may fail to be pathwise connectifiable. © 1999 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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0. Introduction

In the last years many papers have been devoted to the spaces which admit dense embeddings in connected spaces (see, e.g., [1,4,6,7]). This paper is the first contribution to the problem of densely embedding a T_1 -space (Hausdorff space) in a pathwise connected T_1 -space (Hausdorff space) (recall that a space X is called pathwise connected if for every x and y in X there is a continuous function $f : I \rightarrow X$ such that $f(0) = x$ and $f(1) = y$).

It is worth noting that every space can be embedded as a closed subspace of a pathwise connected space (see, e.g., [5,8]), but, as we shall see, the problem of finding dense embeddings is completely different.

After having characterized, in the first paragraph, those T_1 -spaces which can be densely embedded in a pathwise connected T_1 -space, we devote the main part of the paper to the investigation of the problem for T_2 -spaces. We give some examples of nonpathwise

* Corresponding author. E-mail: fedeli@axscaq.aquila.infn.it.

connectifiable spaces and we show that every countable first countable Hausdorff space without isolated points is pathwise connectifiable.

We refer the reader to [3] for notations and terminology not explicitly given.

1. Dense embeddings in pathwise connected T_1 -spaces

Theorem 1.1. *A T_1 -space (with more than one point) can be densely embedded in a pathwise connected T_1 -space if and only if it has no isolated points.*

Proof. If X is a T_1 -space (with more than one point) with an isolated point, then it cannot be even densely embedded in a connected T_1 -space [7]. Now let X be a T_1 -space without isolated points. Let us show that X can be densely embedded in a pathwise connected T_1 -space Z .

Let $Y = X \times I$ and take a function $\lambda : X \rightarrow (0, 1)$. We topologize Y as follows. For every open subset V of X let $V(\lambda) = \{(x, \varepsilon) : x \in V, 0 \leq \varepsilon < \lambda(x)\}$. If $x \in X$ and $\kappa \in I$, then a basic neighbourhood of (x, κ) in Y has the following form:

$$(V(\lambda) \setminus (\{x\} \times [0, \lambda(x)))) \cup \{x\} \times I_\kappa,$$

where V is an open neighbourhood of x in X and I_κ is an open interval in I containing κ . Now set $S = X \times \{1\}$ and let Z be the quotient space obtained from Y by identifying S to a point. It is easy to see that Z is a pathwise connected T_1 -space in which $X \times \{0\}$ is a dense subspace homeomorphic to X . \square

Remark 1.2. A space X is called hyperconnected if every pair of nonempty open subsets has nonempty intersection. It is clear that every hyperconnected T_1 -space has no isolated points. Let us see that this kind of spaces can be densely embedded in a pathwise connected T_1 -spaces in a different way. Let (X, τ) be a hyperconnected T_1 -space and set $Z = X \cup Y$, where Y is a set such that $|Y| = c$ and $X \cap Y = \emptyset$. Let $\sigma = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{(U \cup Y) \setminus F : U \in \tau \setminus \{0\}, F \in [Y]^{<\omega}\}$. Since X is hyperconnected, it follows that σ is a topology on Z . Clearly Z is T_1 and X is a dense subspace of Z . Now observe that $Y \cup \{x\}$ is pathwise connected for every $x \in X$ (in fact $Y \cup \{x\}$ is a cofinite space of cardinality c). Therefore Z is pathwise connected.

Remark 1.3. By the above theorem and Lemma 1.2 in [7] it follows that a T_1 -space is densely embeddable in a pathwise connected T_1 -space if and only if it is densely embeddable in a connected T_1 -space. Observe that a T_1 -space X without isolated points can be densely embedded in a connected T_1 -space Z such that $|Z \setminus X| = 1$ (let $Z = X \cup \{\infty\}$, let the neighborhoods of ∞ be of the form $\{\infty\} \cup (X \setminus F)$ where $F \in [X]^{<\omega}$ and let X be open in Z). Note that this cannot be done in our case, in fact every pathwise connected T_1 -space (with more than one point) must have uncountable cardinality (I cannot be written as the union of a countable family of pairwise disjoint nonempty closed sets).

2. Some spaces which are not pathwise connectifiable

A T_2 -space which is densely embeddable in a pathwise connected T_2 -space will be called pathwise connectifiable.

Example 2.1. Let Y be a T_2 -space which has a free open ultrafilter p and let $X = Y \cup \{p\}$ be the space in which the neighborhoods of points of Y are unchanged, and the neighborhoods of p are the sets $G \cup \{p\}$ where $G \in p$. Then X is not pathwise connectifiable.

Assume the contrary; then there is a pathwise connected T_2 -space Z such that $\overline{X} = Z$. Let $x_0 \in X$ and take a continuous injection $f: I \rightarrow Z$ such that $f(0) = x_0$ and $f(1) = p$. Let $\{t_n: n \in N\}$ be a sequence converging to 1 (with $t_n \neq 1$ for every n), clearly $f(t_n) = z_n \rightarrow p$. As Z is Hausdorff we can construct, by induction, a subsequence $\{z_{n_k}\}_\kappa$ of $\{z_n\}_n$ and two families $\{B_\kappa: \kappa \in N\}$ and $\{V_\kappa: \kappa \in N\}$ of open sets of Z such that for every κ :

- (i) $z_{n_k} \in B_\kappa$ and $p \in V_\kappa$,
- (ii) $B_\kappa \cap V_\kappa = \emptyset$,
- (iii) $B_{\kappa+1} \subset V_\kappa$ and $V_{\kappa+1} \subset V_\kappa$.

Now set $H = \bigcup \{B_\kappa: \kappa = 2n, n \in N\} \cap Y$ and $K = \bigcup \{B_\kappa: \kappa = 2n + 1, n \in N\} \cap Y$. Since $H \cap K = \emptyset$, we will reach a contradiction if we show that $H, K \in p$. Since p is an ultrafilter it is enough to show that H and K meet every member of p . Let $C \in p$. Since $C \cup \{p\}$ is open in X , there exists an open set V of Z such that $V \cap X = C \cup \{p\}$. Since V is a neighbourhood of p in Z , there is an even natural number κ such that $z_{n_k} \in V$ and therefore $B_\kappa \cap V \neq \emptyset$. Since X is dense in Z , it follows that $(B_\kappa \cap V) \cap X \neq \emptyset$. Hence $\emptyset \neq (B_\kappa \cap X) \cap (V \cap X) = (B_\kappa \cap Y) \cap (C \cup \{p\}) \subset H \cap C$; therefore $H \in p$. In a similar way it can be shown that $K \in p$.

Remark 2.2. A space Y is said to be extremally disconnected at the point p if for every two disjoint open sets U and V in Y , $p \notin \overline{U} \cap \overline{V}$ (see, e.g., [2]). Observe that the proof of Example 2.1 can be used to show the following (more general) statement: a Hausdorff space with a point of extremal disconnectedness is not pathwise connectifiable.

Remark 2.3. Take $Y = Q$ and let $X = Q \cup \{p\}$ as in Example 2.1. Then X can be densely embedded in a connected T_2 -space (see Theorem 3.5 in [7]), but it is not pathwise connectifiable.

In the next example we show that a subspace of the Euclidean line can be densely embedded in a connected T_2 -space without being pathwise connectifiable.

Example 2.4. For every $n \in N \cup \{0\}$ let $X_n = (1/(2n + 2), 1/(2n + 1)]$, and let us consider the following subspace of the euclidean line:

$$X = \{0\} \cup \bigcup \{X_n: n \in N \cup \{0\}\}.$$

Since X is a metrizable space with no nonempty proper compact open subsets, it can be densely embedded in a connected T_2 -space (see Corollary 2.10 of [6]). We claim that X is not pathwise connectifiable.

Let us suppose that Z is a pathwise connected T_2 -space such that X is dense in Z . For every $n \in N \cup \{0\}$ let $f_n: I \rightarrow Z$ be an embedding such that $f_n(0) = 1/(2n+1)$ and $f_n(1) = 0$. For every $n \in N \cup \{0\}$ let $t_n = \min\{t \in I: f_n(t) \notin X_n\}$ (it is easy to see that t_n exists) and set $z_n = f_n(t_n)$.

Since f_n is an embedding, there is some $c \geq 1/(2n+2)$ such that $f_n([0, t_n)) = (c, 1/(2n+1)]$. We claim that $c = 1/(2n+2)$ (and hence $f_n([0, t_n)) = X_n$). Suppose that $c > 1/(2n+2)$, then $z_n = c \in X_n$ (by the continuity of f_n), and we reach a contradiction. Therefore $\text{cl}_Z(X_n) = X_n \cup \{z_n\}$ for every $n \in N \cup \{0\}$.

First let us show that $Z = X \cup \{z_n: n \in N \cup \{0\}\}$. Suppose there is some $z \in Z \setminus (X \cup \{z_n: n \in N \cup \{0\}\})$. Since $z \neq 0$, there are disjoint open subsets U and V of Z such that $z \in U$ and $0 \in V$. Take $\kappa \in N$ such that $\bigcup\{X_n: n \geq \kappa\} \subset V$, obviously $\text{cl}_Z(\bigcup\{\text{cl}_Z(X_n): n \geq \kappa\}) \subset \text{cl}_Z(V)$ and $\text{cl}_Z(V) \cap U = \emptyset$. Since $z \notin \bigcup\{\text{cl}_Z(X_n): n \in \{0, \dots, \kappa-1\}\}$, there is an open neighbourhood W of z in Z such that

$$W \cap \bigcup\{\text{cl}_Z(X_n): n \in \{0, \dots, \kappa-1\}\} = \emptyset.$$

Therefore $G = U \cap W$ is a nonempty open subset of Z such that $G \cap X = \emptyset$, a contradiction.

Now let $A = \{i \in N \cup \{0\}: z_i = z_0\}$ and set $K = \bigcup\{\text{cl}_Z(X_i): i \in A\}$. Obviously, as $0 \notin K$, K is a proper nonempty subset of Z . We reach a contradiction if we show that K is clopen in Z . Since $z_0 \neq 0$, there are disjoint open subsets U and V of Z such that $z_0 \in U$ and $0 \in V$. Take $\kappa(V) \in N$ such that $\bigcup\{X_i: i \geq \kappa(V)\} \subset V$, and hence $\text{cl}_Z(\bigcup\{\text{cl}_Z(X_i): i \geq \kappa(V)\}) \subset \text{cl}_Z(V)$. Since $\text{cl}_Z(V) \cap U = \emptyset$, it follows that $z_i \neq z_0$ for every $i \geq \kappa(V)$. Therefore A is finite and K is closed in Z . Before showing that K is open in Z let us see that every X_n is open in Z . Let $Y = X \setminus X_n$. Since X_n is open in X , there is an open subset W of Z such that $W \cap X = X_n$. Observe that $W \cap \text{cl}_Z(Y) = \emptyset$. Now $Z = \text{cl}_Z(X_n \cup Y) = X_n \cup \{z_n\} \cup \text{cl}_Z(Y)$, hence $W \subset X_n \cup \{z_n\}$. So $X_n \subset W \subset X_n \cup \{z_n\}$, therefore $X_n = W$ or $X_n = W \setminus \{z_n\}$. Hence X_n is open in Z .

Now we can show that K is open in Z . Let $p \in K$; since every X_n is open in Z , it is enough to consider the case in which $p = z_0$. For every $j < \kappa(V)$ such that $z_j \neq z_0$ take an open neighbourhood U_j of z_0 in Z such that $U_j \cap \text{cl}_Z(X_j) = \emptyset$. Since U is an open set of Z containing z_0 such that $U \cap \text{cl}_Z(X_j) = \emptyset$ for every $j \geq \kappa(V)$, it follows that $U \cap \bigcap\{U_j: j < \kappa(V), z_j \neq z_0\}$ is an open neighbourhood of z_0 in Z which is contained in K .

Example 2.4, and every continuum in the euclidean plane which is not pathwise connected, show that a metrizable second countable space with no nonempty proper compact open subsets may fail to be pathwise connectifiable. So it is natural to ask the following:

Problem 2.5. Under which conditions a metrizable second countable space is pathwise connectifiable?

3. Pathwise connectifiable spaces

Remark 2.3 shows that a countable Hausdorff space without isolated points may fail to be pathwise connectifiable.

Theorem 3.1. *A countable first countable Hausdorff space X (with more than one point) is pathwise connectifiable if and only if it has no isolated points.*

Proof. The necessity is clear. So let us prove the sufficiency. Let τ be the topology on X and assume that the underlying set of X is N . For every $n \in N$ let $\mathcal{B}_n = \{B(n, i) : i \in N\}$ be a decreasing base for X at the point n such that $C(n, i) = B(n, i) \setminus \overline{B(n, i+1)} \neq \emptyset$ for every $i \in N$ (this can be done because X is a Hausdorff space without isolated points). Observe that for every $n \in N$ it follows that $C(n, i) \cap C(n, j) = \emptyset$ whenever $i \neq j$. If A is a nonempty open set of X , $\mathcal{G}(A)$ will denote the family of free open filters \mathcal{F} on X with a countable base such that $A \in \mathcal{F}$. \square

Now the proof of the theorem will proceed in several steps.

Claim 1. $\mathcal{G}(A) \neq \emptyset$ for every nonempty open subset A of X .

Proof. Let $F_1 = A$ and suppose to have constructed F_1, \dots, F_n in such a way that:

- (i) F_i is a nonempty open set of X for every $i \leq n$,
- (ii) $F_i \subset F_j$ if $j < i \leq n$,
- (iii) for every $i \leq n$ there is a $B_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$ such that $B_i \cap F_i = \emptyset$.

Pick a point $x \in F_n$ such that $x \neq n+1$, and take a $B \in \mathcal{B}_{n+1}$ and a $H \in \mathcal{B}_x$ such that $H \subset F_n$ and $B \cap H = \emptyset$. Set $F_{n+1} = H$ and $B_{n+1} = B$. This completes the inductive construction. Clearly the open filter \mathcal{F} generated by $\{F_n : n \in N\}$ is an element of $\mathcal{G}(A)$.

A collection $\{\mathcal{C}_\lambda : \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ of families of subsets of X is called totally disjoint if for every $\lambda \in \Lambda$ there is a $C_\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_\lambda$ such that $\{C_\lambda : \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ is a family of pairwise disjoint sets. \square

Claim 2. Let $\mathcal{H}_1, \dots, \mathcal{H}_n \in \mathcal{G}(N)$ and let H be a nonempty open subset of X . Then there is some $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{G}(H)$ such that $\{\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}_i\}$ is totally disjoint for every $i \leq n$.

Proof. Let $x \in H$; then there exist $B \in \mathcal{B}_x$ and $H_i \in \mathcal{H}_i$ such that $B \cap H_i = \emptyset$ for every $i \leq n$. Pick $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{G}(H \cap B)$; then \mathcal{H} has the required properties.

Applying Claim 2 it is possible to choose, for every $n, i \in N$, a filter $\mathcal{F}(n, i) \in \mathcal{G}(C(n, i))$ in such a way that $\{\mathcal{F}(n, i), \mathcal{F}(m, j)\}$ is totally disjoint whenever $(n, i) \neq (m, j)$. \square

Claim 3. Let $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{G}(N)$. Then for every $n \in N$ there is an open filter \mathcal{H}_n with a countable base such that $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{H}_n$ and $\{\mathcal{H}_n : n \in N\}$ is totally disjoint.

Proof. Let $\{H_1 \supset H_2 \supset \dots\}$ be a filter base of \mathcal{H} with $C_i = H_i \setminus \overline{H_{i+1}} \neq \emptyset$. Take a partition $\{K_n : n \in N\}$ of N such that $|K_n| = \omega$ for every n .

Now for every $n, i \in N$ set $H(n, i) = \bigcup \{C_j: j > i, j \in K_n\}$ and let \mathcal{H}_n be the filter generated by $\{H(n, i): i \in N\}$. Then the family $\{\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2, \dots\}$ has the required properties. \square

Now we are able to start the construction of a Hausdorff pathwise connected space Z in which X can be densely embedded.

Apply Claim 3 in order to obtain, for every $n, i \in N$, a sequence $\{\mathcal{F}(n, i, \kappa): \kappa \in N\}$ of open filters with a countable base so that $\mathcal{F}(n, i) \subset \mathcal{F}(n, i, \kappa)$ for every κ and $\{\mathcal{F}(n, i, \kappa): \kappa \in N\}$ is totally disjoint.

Moreover from Claim 3 and the choice of the $\mathcal{F}(n, i, k)$ we can deduce the following

Claim 4. *For every m the family $\{\mathcal{F}(n, i, \kappa): n, i \leq m, \kappa \in N\}$ is totally disjoint.*

Let $Q_+ = Q \cap [0, \infty)$ and $R_+ = [0, \infty)$ For every $n, i \in N$ take a bijection

$$\phi_{n,i}: \left\{x \in Q_+: \frac{1}{i+1} \leq |x - n| < \frac{1}{i}\right\} \rightarrow N$$

and let σ be the topology on R_+ given by the following neighbourhood system:

- (i) $x = q \in Q_+ \setminus \{n/2: n \in N\}$. Let $n_q = [q + \frac{1}{2}]$ (the greatest integer function) and let $i_q \in N$ such that $1/(i_q + 1) \leq |q - n_q| < 1/i_q$, set $\kappa_q = \phi_{n_q, i_q}(q)$. A neighbourhood of q is of the form $F \cup \{q\}$, where $F \in \mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q)$.
- (ii) $x = n \in N$. A neighbourhood of n is any B with $B \in \mathcal{B}_n$.
- (iii) Every other point of R_+ is isolated.

Now let τ_E be the euclidean topology on R_+ , set $\lambda = \sigma \cap \tau_E$ and $Z = (R_+, \lambda)$.

We claim that

- (1) Z is pathwise connected;
- (2) X is a dense subspace of Z ;
- (3) Z is a Hausdorff space.

Since λ is coarser than the euclidean topology on R_+ , it follows that Z is pathwise connected.

Now let $\lambda|N = \{G \cap N: G \in \lambda\}$ and let us show that $\tau = \lambda|N$ (i.e., X is a subspace of Z). Observe that $\lambda|N \subset \sigma|N = \tau$, so it remains to show that $A \in \lambda|N$ for every $A \in \tau$. Let $A \in \tau$ and set $A^* = \bigcup \{(n - 1/i_n, n + 1/i_n): n \in A\}$ where $i_n = \min\{i \geq 2: B(n, i) \subset A\}$, obviously $A^* \in \tau_E$ and $A \subset A^*$. We claim that $A^* \in \sigma$ (and therefore $A^* \in \lambda$). Take $q \in A^*$ (it is enough to consider the case in which $q \in (Q_+ \setminus \{n/2: n \in N\})$): let n be such that $q \in (n - 1/i_n, n + 1/i_n)$, set $\kappa = \phi_{n, i}(q)$, where $i = i_q$ and take $B(n, i) \in \mathcal{F}(n, i, \kappa)$. Observe that $B(n, i) \subset B(n, i_n)$ ($i \geq i_n$) and $B(n, i_n) \subset A$, therefore $B(n, i) \cup \{q\}$ is a neighbourhood of q in (R_+, σ) which is contained in A^* . Therefore $A^* \in \sigma \subset \lambda$. Since $A = A^* \cap N$, it follows that $A \in \lambda|N$.

Now let us show that X is dense in Z . Let G be a nonempty open subset of Z and take a $q \in G \cap Q$. Since $G \in \sigma$, there is some $F \in \mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q)$ such that $F \cup \{q\} \subset G$. Therefore $\emptyset \neq F \cap N \subset G \cap N$.

It remains to show that Z is a Hausdorff space. Let x and y be two distinct points of Z .

(i) $x, y \in N$ (let us say $x = m$ and $y = n$). Since X is T_2 , there are $B_x \in \mathcal{B}_m$ and $B_y \in \mathcal{B}_n$ such that $B_x \cap B_y = \emptyset$. It is enough to observe that B_x^* and B_y^* are disjoint open subsets of Z with $x \in B_x^*$ and $y \in B_y^*$.

(ii) $x, y \notin N$. Take two positive numbers ε_x and ε_y so that $I_x = (x - \varepsilon_x, x + \varepsilon_x)$ and $I_y = (y - \varepsilon_y, y + \varepsilon_y)$ are disjoint and $I_x \cap N = I_y \cap N = \emptyset$. Let $S = (Q_+ \setminus \{n/2: n \in N\}) \cap (I_x \cup I_y)$ and observe that $\{\mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q): q \in S\}$ is totally disjoint (by Claim 4). So, for every $q \in S$, there is a $B_q \in \mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q)$ such that the family $\{B_q: q \in S\}$ is cellular. Set $B_q = \emptyset$ for every $q \in (I_x \cup I_y) \setminus S$, $A_x = \bigcup\{B_q: q \in I_x\}$ and $A_y = \bigcup\{B_q: q \in I_y\}$. Now let $G_x = I_x \cup A_x$ and $H_y = I_y \cup A_y$. For every $n \in A_x$ take $\varepsilon_n > 0$ such that $(n - \varepsilon_n, n + \varepsilon_n) \cap I_y = \emptyset$ and $\varepsilon_n < 1/i_n$ (see the definition of A^*), moreover for every $m \in A_y$ take $\delta_m > 0$ such that $(m - \delta_m, m + \delta_m) \cap I_x = \emptyset$ and $\delta_m < 1/i_m$. Let $G = I_x \cup \bigcup\{(n - \varepsilon_n, n + \varepsilon_n): n \in A_x\}$ and $H = I_y \cup \bigcup\{(m - \delta_m, m + \delta_m): m \in A_y\}$. Obviously $x \in G$ and $y \in H$, moreover it is straightforward to check that G and H are disjoint open subsets of Z .

(iii) $x = m \in N$ and $y \notin N$. Take a positive number ε such that $I_y = (y - \varepsilon, y + \varepsilon)$ does not meet N . Let $S = (Q_+ \setminus \{n/2: n \in N\}) \cap I_y$, since $\{\mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q): q \in S\}$ is finite, it follows that the family $\{\mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q): q \in S\} \cup \{\mathcal{B}_m\}$ is totally disjoint. So from Claim 4, $\{\mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q): q \in S\} \cup \{\mathcal{B}_m\}$ is totally disjoint too.

Now take $B_q \in \mathcal{F}(n_q, i_q, \kappa_q)$ and $B \in \mathcal{B}_m$ so that $\{B_q: q \in S\} \cup \{B\}$ is cellular. Let $B_q = \emptyset$ for every $q \in I_y \setminus S$ and set $A_x = B$ and $A_y = \bigcup\{B_q: q \in I_y\}$. Arguing as in the previous case (with $I_x = \emptyset$) we can obtain two disjoint open subsets G and H of Z such that $x \in G$ and $y \in H$. Therefore Z is a Hausdorff space.

We conclude this paper with the following general

Problem 3.2. Characterize those Hausdorff spaces which are pathwise connectifiable.

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